1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

the worſt roads, and to free themſelves very often overturn their driver.

The beſt travelling is in the month of *March* or *April*, when the ſnow is turned hard or frozen a little at top; however, there is ſtill this inconvenience attending it, that ſometimes travellers are obliged to lodge two or three nights in deſert places; and it is difficult to prevail upon the *Kamtſchadales* to make fire either for warming themſelves or dreſſing victuals, as they and their dogs eat dried fiſh, and find themſelves ſo warm wrapt in their furrs that they want none; nay, it is ſurpriſing to ſee all the people of this climate bearing the cold ſo well, that after having ſlept a whole night very ſound they awake next morning as refreſhed and alert as if they had lain in the warmeſt bed. This ſeems to be ſo natural to all here, that I have ſeen ſome of them lie down with their backs uncovered againſt a fire, and notwithſtanding the fire has been burnt out long before morning, yet they continued to ſleep on very comfortably, and without any inconvenience.

CHAP. X.

Of the Kamtſchadales' *Method of making* WAR.

ALTHOUGH before they were conquered by the *Ruſſians*, the *Kamtſchadales* did not ſeem to have had any ambition of increaſing their power, or enlarging their territories, yet they had ſuch frequent quarrels among themſelves that ſeldom a year paſſed without one village or other being entirely ruined. The end of their wars was to take priſoners, in order

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

Those of winter are less singular; and if
equally large, would exactly reſemble the
342 habitations of the Ruſſian peaſants. Theſe
177 have been ſo often deſcribed, that it is univer-
352 ſally known how they are conſtructed and
513 arranged. The iſbas are built of wood;
562 that is to ſay, the walls are formed by plac-
ing long trees horizontally upon one an-
other, and filling up the interſtices with
clay. The roof ſlants like our thatched
houſes, and is covered with coarſe graſs, or
ruſhes, and frequently with planks. The
interior part is divided into two rooms, with
a ſtove placed ſo as to warm them both, and
which ſerves at the ſame time as a fire-
place for their cookery. On two ſides of
the largeſt room, wide benches are fixed,
and ſometimes a ſorry couch made of
planks, and covered with bears ſkin. This
is the bed of the chief of the family: and
the women, who in this country are the
ſlaves of their huſbands, and perform all
the

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

000 to dig a hole in the ſnow, which was in this place at leaſt ſix feet deep; others fetched wood, and a fire being quickly lighted, the kettle was ſet on. A light repaſt, and a ſmall dram of brandy, ſoon recovered all our company. As the night approached, we were employed upon the means of paſſing it in the leaſt uncomfortable manner. Each prepared his own bed: mine was my vezock, where I could lie down at my eaſe; but except M. Kaſloff, there was no other perſon who had ſo convenient a carriage. How, ſaid I to myſelf, will theſe poor creatures contrive to ſleep? I was ſoon relieved from my anxiety on their account. The manner in which they prepared their beds, deſerves to be mentioned, though they did not obſerve much ceremony on the occaſion. Having dug a hole in the ſnow, they covered it with the branches of trees, the ſmalleſt they could get; then wrapping themſelves up in a *kouklanki*, with the hood drawn over their

513

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

513 their heads, they lay down on their bed as if it were the beſt in the world. As to our dogs, they were unharneſſed, and tied to the trees that were near us, where they paſſed the night in their uſual manner.

The wind having conſiderably abated, we proceeded on our journey before it was light. We had thirty werſts to Ozernoï, where it had been our intention to have ſlept the preceding evening. We arrived at ten o'clock in the morning, but our dogs being extremely fatigued, we were obliged to ſpend the reſt of the day, and even the night there, in hopes that the wind, which began to blow ſtill more violently in the afternoon, would ſubſide during the interval.

361 The oſtrog takes its name from a lake that is near it. The river Ozernaïa, which is but ſmall, runs at the bottom of the village.